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SAP/BLAKELY			PARDO, THUY N	
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/749,957	ZENZ, INGO
	Examiner Thuy N. Pardo	Art Unit 2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on March 12, 2007 in response to Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. This Office Action is Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 17-22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by E et al. (Hereinafter "E"), US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0019639.

As to claim 1, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:
storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment [storing updates of distributed data in distributed store 110 of fig. 2; 0035]; and
updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment [update the primary data portion, 0060-0062; 0071; 0077; 0103].

As to claim 2, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches:
acquiring a lock for the portion of the configuration in a first node in the distributed environment [locks to multi-threaded processes for portions of the distributed data, ab; lock 114 to primary data portion 210, see fig. 3A-3C of process 106 in the node 150 of fig. 2; 0018-0021; 0036-0051];

modifying the portion of the configuration [modified portion of local data; 0060; 0062; 0071; 0103];

invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment [providing locked access to distributed data in a distributed system, 0073; other processes may be prevented from accessing the locked portion, 0042; 500-530 of fig. 6]; and releasing the lock [releases the lock to the distributed store, 530 of fig. 6; ab; 0051].

As to claim 3, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches:
updating a database to reflect modifications of a portion of the configuration [update primary data portion, see fig. 3C, 5B; 0060-0062; 0071; 0077; 0103]; and
blocking reads of the configuration during the updating [other processes may be prevented from accessing the locked portion, 0042].

As to claim 4, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches
notifying nodes in the distributed environment of the updated configuration data [notify the local data manager, 0048-0052].

As to claim 5, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches that the lock is cluster wide [locks to processes for portions of primary data while a process holds a lock for a portion of primary data, other processes may not access the locked portion, 0011].

As to claim 6, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches writing changes to a shared database [update primary data 112 in distributed store 110 of fig. 3C].

As to claim 10, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed. E further notifying registered listeners that the configuration has been changed [a thread requiring access to the distributed data portion may notify the local data manager. The local data manager may increment the count in response to the notification. If a thread finishes accessing the distributed data portion, the thread may notify the local data manager that it has finished. The local data manager may decrement the count in response to the notification that the thread has finished, 0048-0049].

As to claims 11, 17 and 25, these claims are corresponding apparatus claims of claim 1-6 and 10; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale. E further teaches an instance of a configuration manager [0011; 0034; 0040-0045].

As to claims 18-22 and 24, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis 1-6, 10, 11 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7, 8, 12-14, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over E et al. (Hereinafter "E"), US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0019639 in view of Vahalia et al. (Hereinafter "Vahalia") US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0251500.

As to claim 7, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure although it has the same functionality of obtaining a lock on a portion of an application in a distributed environment. Vahalia teaches changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure [see 161-168 of fig. 9; 162-185 of fig. 10; fig. 13-15, 22; 0105; 0111; 0167-0168].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add Vahalia's features to the system of E as an essential means to recognize the location of updated objects in the tree structure to exclusively access to that specified updated object in the file system.

As to claim 8, E and Vahalia teach the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches distributed sessions may be distributed among multiple servers, for example in a cluster [0008; 0035], and Vahalia further teaches sending a cache invalidation event to another node in the cluster [0167; 0127-0133].

As to claim 12, E and Vahalia teach the invention substantially as claimed. Vahalia further teaches a configuration cache [330, 323, 324 of fig. 18] and a configuration handler [0123-0125].

As to claim 13, E and Vahalia teach the invention substantially as claimed. Vahalia further teaches a persistency handler [0123-0125].

As to claim 14, E and Vahalia teach the invention substantially as claimed. Vahalia further teaches a configuration handler to permit access to and modification of the configuration [0123-0125].

As to claim 23, this limitation has been addressed in the analysis of claim 8 above, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As to claim 27, this limitation has been addressed in the analysis of claims 12-14 and 23 above, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

4. Claims 9, 15 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over E et al. (Hereinafter "E"), US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0019639 in view of Applicant's Admission of Prior art.

As to claim 9, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of a plurality of Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) although it has the same functionality of using user-specific states including persistent objects that handle to Enterprise Java Bean [see 0008]. However, the Applicant's Admission of Prior art teaches that in a J2EE environment, the business layer, which handles the core business logic of the application, is comprised of Enterprise Java Bean (EJB") components with support for EJB containers [0007]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature to the system of E as an essential means to develop portable, robust, scalable and secure server-side Java applications by building on the solid foundation of Java SE, Java EE provides web services, component model, management, and communications APIs that make it the industry standard for implementing enterprise class service-oriented architecture (SOA) and Web 2.0 applications.

As to claims 15 and 26, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over E et al. (Hereinafter "E"), US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0019639, in view of Vahalia et

al. (Hereinafter “Vahalia”) US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0251500, and in further view of Applicant's Admission of Prior art.

As to claim 16, E, Vahalia and Applicant's Admission of Prior art teach the invention substantially as claimed. E further teaches that some of the persistent objects [0034], and Vahalia further teaches caching client attribute data and file attribute data [0066; 0131].

Response to Arguments

6. 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph:

Applicant argues that the definition of “configuration” was defined at page 8 of the specification wherein “A configuration is a set of persistent objects referred to herein as configuration objects” are persuasive, therefore, the 112, 2nd rejection has been withdrawn. It should be noted that a configuration is not only a set of persistent objects, it is also an information (the configuration is a configuration of information, see the abstract), data and/or program code (see 0009, 0027-0028 of specification), messages (0023), or a tree structure, a set of name value pairs, set of files and/or a set of sub-configuration objects (0030 of specification).

35 U.S.C. 102(e):

Applicant argues that E fails to teach storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage or updating the configuration in the distributed environment.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that E teaches these features. E teaches storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment [storing updates of distributed data in distributed store 110 of fig. 2;

0035]; and updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment [update the primary data portion, ab; 0060-0062; 0071; 0077; 0103]. As I mentioned previously, configuration is not only a set of persistent objects, it is also an information (the configuration is a configuration of information, see the abstract), data and/or program code (see 0009, 0027-0028 of specification), messages (0023), or a tree structure, a set of name value pairs, set of files and/or a set of sub-configuration objects (0030 of specification). In this case, E teaches updating and storing a configuration of data in a central storage (i.e., distributed store 110 of fig. 2; 0034; the abstract].

Applicant argues that E fails to teach the additional invalidating element of claim 2.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that E teaches invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment by providing locked access to distributed data in a distributed system, 0073 and preventing other processes from accessing the locked portion, 0042; 500-530 of fig. 6].

Applicant argues that E fails to teach the blocking element.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that E teaches this feature of blocking reads of the configuration during the updating by preventing other processes from accessing the locked portion, 0042].

Applicant argues that E fails to teach notifying nodes in the distributed environment of the updated configuration data. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that E teaches notifying nodes in the distributed environment of the updated configuration data [notify the local data manager from the distributed store (i.e., central storage) that the tread has finished, see 0048-0052].

Applicant argues that E fails to teach an instance of a configuration manager, the maintenance of consistent storage of a configuration across the nodes without passing configuration modification between nodes, and a change event listener to notify by registered components of configuration change events can be found.

As to this point, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner also believes that E teaches these features. E teaches an instance of a configuration manager (i.e., application servers) globally access one or more instances or copies of data, [see 0034; 0040-0045], a consistent storage of a configuration across the nodes [(i.e., distributed data systems) 110 of fig. 1] without passing configuration modification between nodes [updates of distributed data to distributed store 110 in distributed data systems in which access to data is shared by multiple nodes or processes, 0032; 0035; 0053], and a change event listener to notify by registered components of configuration change events by sending updates by the application servers (i.e., change event listener) of distributed data to distributed store 110 in response to an event such as a modification of one or more attributes of the local data 108 and/or as routine maintenance to synchronize the primary data with the local data 108 [0035].

Claims rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Applicant argues that In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21

USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, E teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure although it has the same functionality of obtaining a lock on a portion of an application in a distributed environment. Vahalia teaches changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure [see 161-168 of fig. 9; 162-185 of fig. 10; fig. 13-15, 22; 0105; 0111; 0167-0168]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add Vahalia's features to the system of E as an essential means to recognize the location of updated objects in the tree structure to exclusively access to that specified updated object in the file system. E teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of a plurality of Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) although it has the same functionality of using user-specific states including persistent objects that handle to Enterprise Java Bean [see 0008]. However, the Applicant's Admission of Prior art teaches that in a J2EE environment, the business layer, which handles the core business logic of the application, is comprised of Enterprise Java Bean (EJB") components with support for EJB containers [0007]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature to the system of E as an essential means to develop portable, robust, scalable and secure server-side Java applications by building on the solid foundation of Java SE, Java EE provides web services, component model, management, and communications APIs that make it the industry standard for implementing enterprise class service-oriented architecture (SOA) and Web 2.0 applications.

7. Applicant's arguments filed on March 12, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

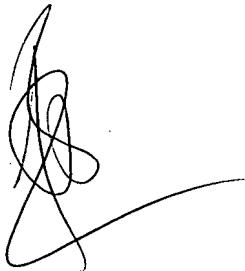
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy N. Pardo whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

June 05, 2007



**THUY N. PARDO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**